

With all this said, however, and with all that has been accomplished in the production of ships and planes, and the thousand-and-one other war essentials that are being manufactured here in our State, industry and labor cannot rest upon their laurels. If Victory is to be achieved within the next year or two--and God grant that it may -- it will only be achieved through the success of America's laboring men and women in turning out an overwhelming superiority of all the war essentials.

For, make no mistake about it, Germany is well entrenched and, despite its recent reverses, well fortified to carry on, not only a defensive war, but to strife, and to strike hard. In the Southwest Pacific too, admittedly, we have made headway. Admittedly we have seriously dented Japanese military and naval strength. But just as admittedly we have a long way to go, and we have many thousands of tons of shipping and planes and tanks and ammunition and guns to send to that area before the fatalistic Japanese militarists are beaten and destroyed, as they must be for Victory.

Yes, Labor has done great things, unbelievable things, during these twelve months of war. But these achievements, extraordinary as they have been, must not only be equalled, but they must be exceeded during 1943, and again in 1944. As never before, Labor will be a deciding factor in this war. The sons and brothers and husbands of our factory and plant workers will carry the fight to less we at home give them their weapons, get them to them at the right time, the enemy, and they are carrying it bravely and successfully indeed. But un- and in the abundant quantities desired, they can's do the task and the war cannot be won.

Labor will do its part with ipcreasing fervor. There is no doubt about it. No one knows better than the laboring people what an Axis Victory would do to their status here in America. All too well is it known what Hitler did to the trades unions in Germany and what tragic conditions oppress labor now in all the Axis countries.

Too, within this first critical year of war, more and more of our families, our relatives, our friends, have been inducted into the military services. More and more, for each one there is a personal urge, to produce more and more so that our soldiers and sailors may have a better than equal chance to win through to Victory and do return uninjured to us.

With the spirit that has been manifest by workers and labor leaders alike, here in our own State, as well as throughout America, one need have no hesitancy in predicting that 1943 will witness such an out-pouring of productive energy that Victory will never be in question. With this cooperation, with every one of our efforts directed to the production of those things our fighting forces need, the result will never be in doubt. To accomplish this, however, means fewer absences from duty, greater precautions against accidental injuries so that every hours of labor is utilized to the fullest to the production of the things we need.

It is gratifying to me, as Chief Executive of the State, to come before an organization that, under the stress and fire of the past year, has acquitted itself